

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 6, 2009  
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 23, 2009  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 13, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1272**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Hill  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Ammiano)**

February 27, 2009

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An act to amend Section 1798.161 of, and to add Section 1797.259 to, the Health and Safety Code, ~~and to add Section 21099.7 to the Public Resources Code,~~ relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1272, as amended, Hill. Emergency medical services: trauma center: helicopter landing pad.

~~(1) Existing~~

*Existing* law, the Emergency Medical Services System and Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority within the California Health and Human Services Agency to, among other things, provide statewide coordination of county emergency medical service programs, including, but not limited to, designated trauma centers, and to administer the Trauma Care Fund.

This bill would require a local emergency medical service to include within its trauma system plan the provision of air transport of trauma patients to, and between, trauma centers, if the local emergency medical service agency elects to implement a trauma system. The bill would make conforming changes.

~~(2) The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report (EIR) on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.~~

~~This bill would provide that, for a project related to the construction of helicopter landing pads on trauma centers, a lead agency is not required to consider the noise impacts associated with the use of the helicopter landing pads in its environmental review conducted pursuant to CEQA.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1797.259 is added to the Health and  
2 Safety Code, immediately following Section 1797.258, to read:  
3 1797.259. A local EMS agency that elects to implement a  
4 trauma system shall include, within its trauma system plan,  
5 provisions for air transport of trauma patients to, and between,  
6 trauma centers.  
7 SEC. 2. Section 1798.161 of the Health and Safety Code is  
8 amended to read:  
9 1798.161. (a) The authority shall submit draft regulations  
10 specifying minimum standards for the implementation of trauma  
11 care systems to the commission on or before July 1, 1984, and  
12 shall adopt the regulations on or before July 1, 1985. These  
13 regulations shall provide specific requirements for the care of  
14 trauma cases and shall ensure that the trauma care system is fully  
15 coordinated with all elements of the existing emergency medical  
16 services system. The regulations shall be adopted as provided in  
17 Section 1799.50, and shall include, but not be limited to, all of the  
18 following:

1 (1) Prehospital care management guidelines for triage and  
2 transportation of trauma cases.

3 (2) Transportation of trauma patients to, and between, trauma  
4 centers by ground and air ambulance.

5 (3) Flow patterns of trauma cases and geographic boundaries  
6 regarding trauma and nontrauma cases.

7 (4) The number and type of trauma cases necessary to assure  
8 that trauma facilities will provide quality care to trauma cases  
9 referred to them.

10 (5) The resources and equipment needed by trauma facilities to  
11 treat trauma cases.

12 (6) The availability and qualifications of the health care  
13 personnel, including physicians and surgeons, treating trauma  
14 cases within a trauma facility.

15 (7) Data collection regarding system operation and patient  
16 outcome.

17 (8) Periodic performance evaluation of the trauma system and  
18 its components.

19 (b) The authority may grant an exception to a portion of the  
20 regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) upon substantiation  
21 of need by a local EMS agency that, as defined in the regulations,  
22 compliance with that requirement would not be in the best interests  
23 of the persons served within the affected local EMS area.

24 ~~SEC. 3. Section 21099.7 is added to the Public Resources Code,~~  
25 ~~to read:~~

26 ~~21099.7. For a project related to the construction of a helicopter~~  
27 ~~landing pad on a trauma center, a lead agency, in compliance with~~  
28 ~~this division, is not required to consider the noise impact caused~~  
29 ~~by the use of the proposed helicopter landing pad in its~~  
30 ~~environmental review of the project.~~